Auburn Station

Parking and Access Improvements

SOUNDTRANSIT

Learn how we'll make it easier to get to the station, and share your feedback on design elements

💬 May 4 - 25

Español Русский

Welcome Background Garage visual design Survey 💬 Learn more

Welcome!

Sound Transit is improving access to Auburn Station for drivers, pedestrians, bicyclists and bus riders, including construction of a garage as well as sidewalk, bicycle and bus enhancements. Sounder trains, ST Express buses and King County Metro buses all serve Auburn Station.

Your feedback will help us determine the visual design of our new parking garage, which will be located at the intersection of 1st Street NW and A Street NW. Should it stand out or blend in? Feel modern or classic? We want to hear what you think.

How to use this site

- Click the ⌄ button to see more information
- Click on hyperlinked text to open new pages or to display pop-up info boxes

Learn more

In person drop-in session at Auburn Station (east side)
May 10 from 3:00 p.m. – 6:15 p.m.

Add to Calendar

Virtual Zoom drop-in session
May 16 from 12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Join meeting

Add to Calendar

Learn more about how to ride Sounder and where it goes.

Sign up for updates on the Auburn Station Parking and Access project

Email Address

Email

Subscribe now

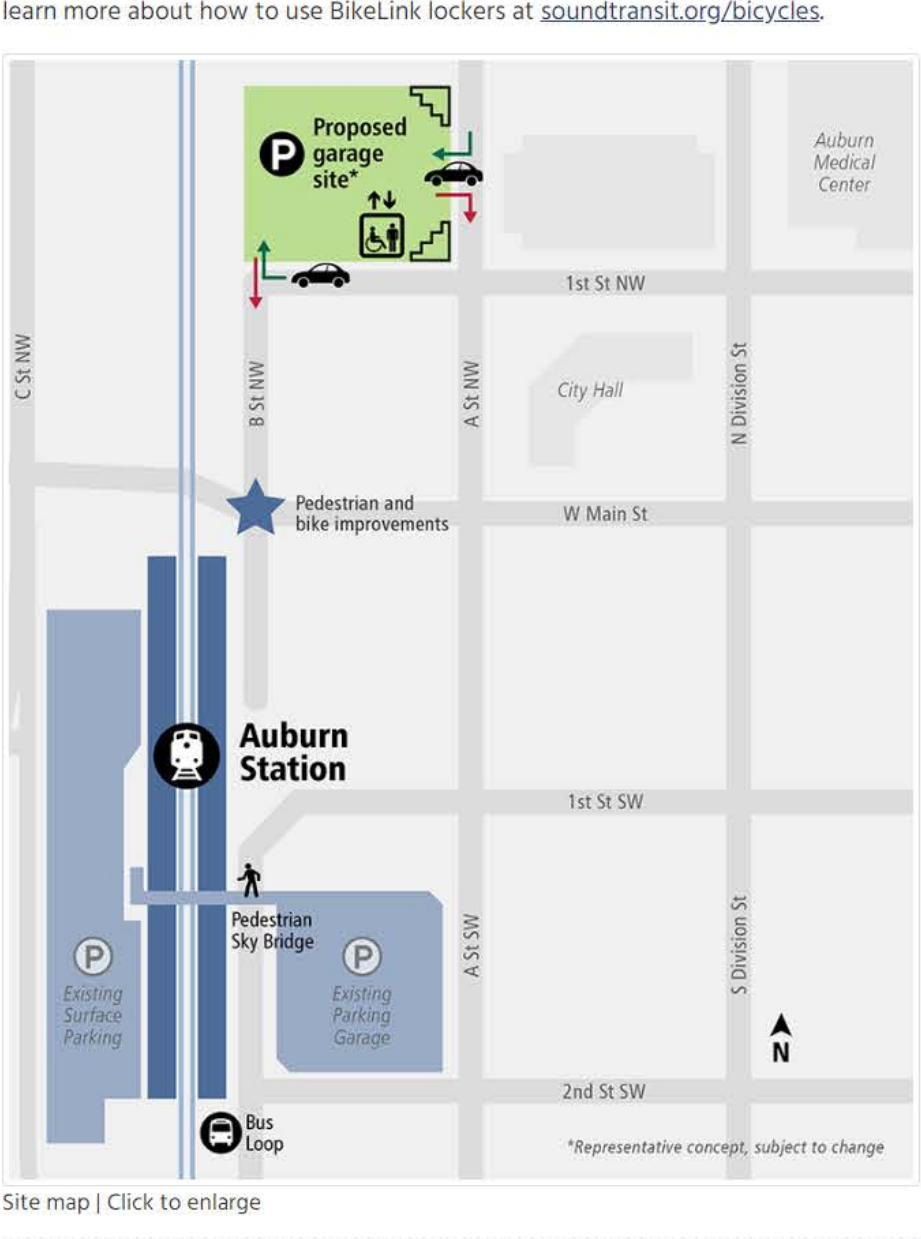
Background

In 2017, Sound Transit worked closely with the City of Auburn and collected community feedback to identify a site for a new parking garage and other improvements. The Sound Transit Board then identified a "preferred improvement package" that included 1st Street NW and A Street NW as the new parking garage site. We then created conceptual designs and completed the required environmental reviews. We paused work on this project in 2020 due to financial uncertainties caused by the COVID-19 pandemic and restarted in late 2021.

In addition to the garage, the project includes:

- New shelters at several area bus stops
- New one-way eastbound vehicular and non-motorized connection between A Street SW and southbound A Street SE
- Pedestrian and bicycle improvements at the intersection of West Main Street and B Street NW

We also installed BikeLink on-demand bike lockers in 2021, on both the east and west sides of the track. These lockers offer a secure way to park your bike for an hour or the whole day with no long-term commitment or monthly fees. You can learn more about how to use BikeLink lockers at soundtransit.org/bicycles.



Site map | Click to enlarge

Pedestrian and bus improvements

- Extending the curb at the north end of the platform where it meets Main Street to reduce vehicle speed and improve pedestrian safety.
- Adding a bicycle left-turn pocket on westbound W Main Street to improve bicycle access.
- Restriping crosswalks and adding flashing lights and warning plates for people with disabilities at Main Street to assist pedestrians crossing.

In addition to pedestrian improvements, we're installing several new bus shelters at stops along local King County Metro routes that connect riders with Auburn Station.

Timeline and next steps

Under our current schedule, we expect to begin construction in fall 2023, with the garage opening in late 2026.

Planning (2017 – 2020) ✓

- **Nov. 2017:** Sound Transit Board identified a preferred improvement package
- **2018 – 2019:** Conceptual engineering and environmental review
- **Fall 2019:** Public comment
- **Early 2020:** Sound Transit Board selects project to build

Design / Construction (2020 – 2026) ★ We are here

- Hire a firm to design and build the project
- Acquire property and obtain permits
- Complete parking garage design
- Groundbreaking and construction updates

Open to public (2026 estimated)

Garage visual design

Many factors influence our parking garage designs, including public input. Sound Transit's standards require that we design for safety and durability, incorporate architectural features, screening and landscaping, and consider pedestrian scale. Many of these standards have evolved since we built the first Auburn Station garage.

In addition, we'll closely adhere to the City of Auburn's building guidelines to extend the vibrant downtown core by contributing to a pedestrian-friendly environment. This includes providing awnings that shelter walkways.

An example of an awning protecting pedestrians.

How we'll use your input

Your input helps us generate **design guidelines** for potential contractors. We'll summarize your feedback in a Vision Statement, which becomes part of the formal Project Requirements that we use to evaluate **contractor's** proposals.

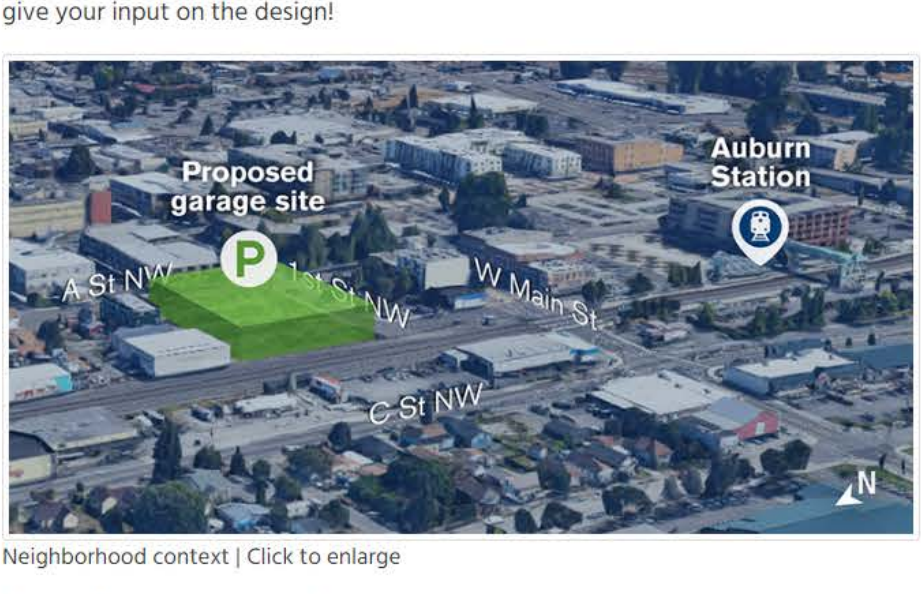
About design-build contracting

We'll deliver this project through a design-build contracting method. Rather than two separate contracts for final design and construction, a single contractor takes the project through both phases. This practice helps to streamline project development and completion.

Design-build also means the project design won't be finalized until after we hire a contractor. Sound Transit provides a list of requirements when advertising the contract, and firms can come up with creative ways to meet requirements, including modified design elements. After we select a contractor, we'll share updated designs with you.

Neighborhood context

The new Auburn Station garage will be located at the intersection of 1st Street NW and A Street NW. The garage will have up to six levels. The image below shows a conceptual rendering of how it will fit in with the neighborhood. Design elements will include architectural screening and landscaping consistent with the City of Auburn's requirements. Scroll down to the *Survey* section of this page to give your input on the design!



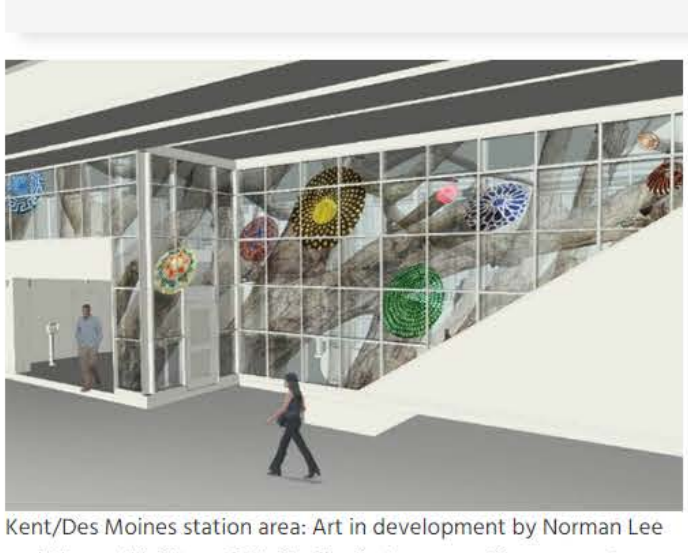
Neighborhood context | Click to enlarge

Sound Transit's Art Program

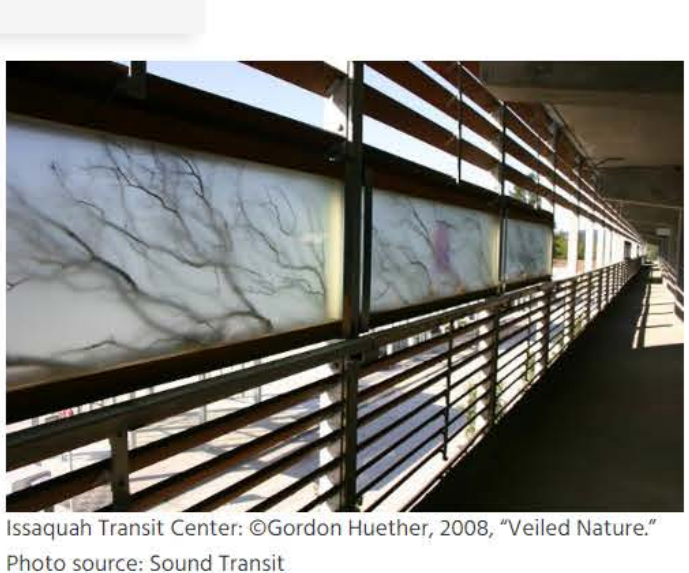
We feature public art in all our facilities, because art in everyday life provides positive experiences for our riders and our transit center neighbors alike.

We implement inclusive practices from the inception of each project to better represent the region's multiculturalism. A panel with community representatives as well as art and design professionals helps us select a candidate, who's then tasked with creating artwork that celebrates the cultural diversity of local communities, informed by the Vision Statement created with city and community feedback.

The following images are examples of projects in development or in existing facilities. The artwork designed for Auburn garage will be unique to this location.



Kent/Des Moines station area: Art in development by Norman Lee and Shane Allbritton of RE:site Studio Image caption: concept development Re:site Studio, Cambium, concept sketches.



Issaquah Transit Center: ©Gordon Huether, 2008, "Veiled Nature." Photo source: Sound Transit

Share your feedback!

Survey 💬

How do you interact with Auburn Station?

☐ I live nearby.
☐ I work nearby.
☐ I take transit from the station.
☐ It's part of my community.

Which of the following best describes how you think the new garage should look?

☐ Large and impressive
☐ Awnings sheltering walkways
☐ Bright bold colors
☐ Stands out and is unique
☐ Natural, earth-toned colors
☐ Incorporates downtown features
☐ Transparent, utilizing screening & glass (e.g. stair towers)
☐ Brick/masonry materials
☐ Variety of materials and textures
☐ Dramatic nighttime lighting
☐ Prominent entry tower
☐ Other:

When thinking about the new garage, which of the following words describes the type of building you imagine?

☐ Urban
☐ Industrial
☐ Timeless
☐ Future-oriented
☐ Agricultural
☐ Northwest (i.e. local, feels like it's from here)
☐ Modern
☐ Sustainable
☐ Other:

Possible design elements

Please rate how important each design element is to you when imagining the new Auburn Station parking garage.
1 = not important, 5 = very important

Earth tones/natural color palette

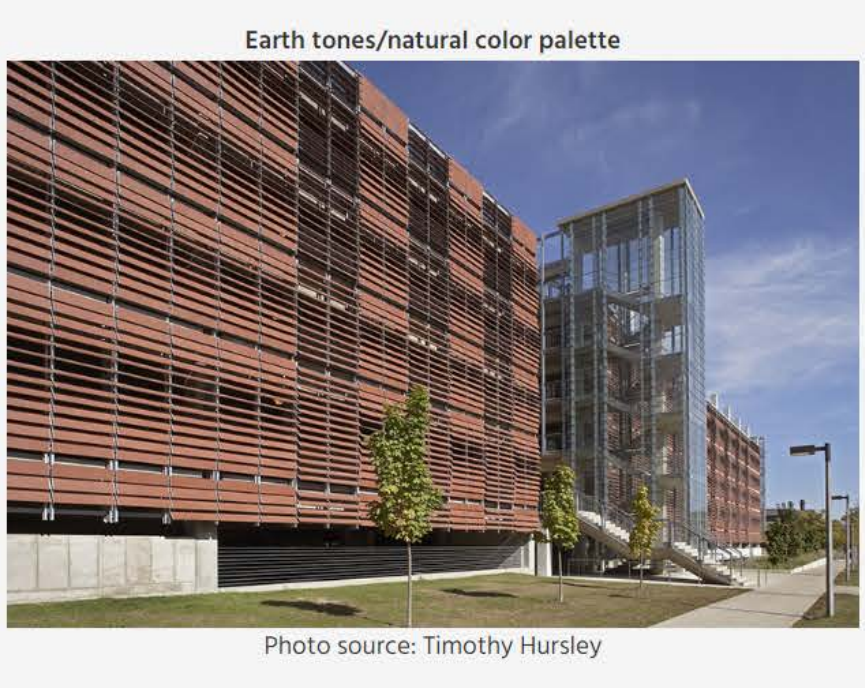


Photo source: Timothy Hursley

1 5

Pop of color

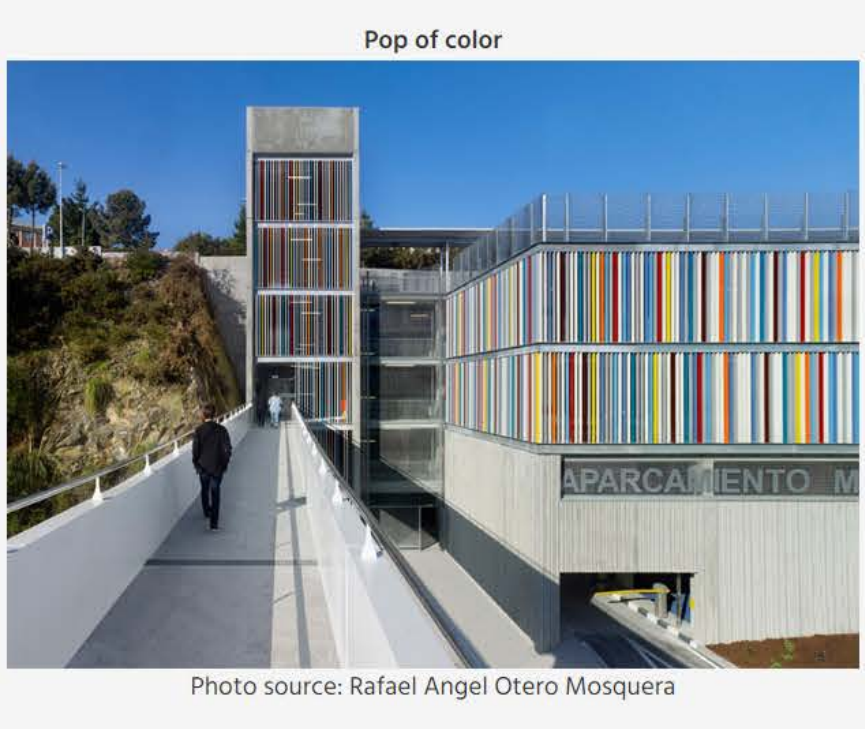


Photo source: Rafael Angel Otero Mosquera

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Iconic and stands out

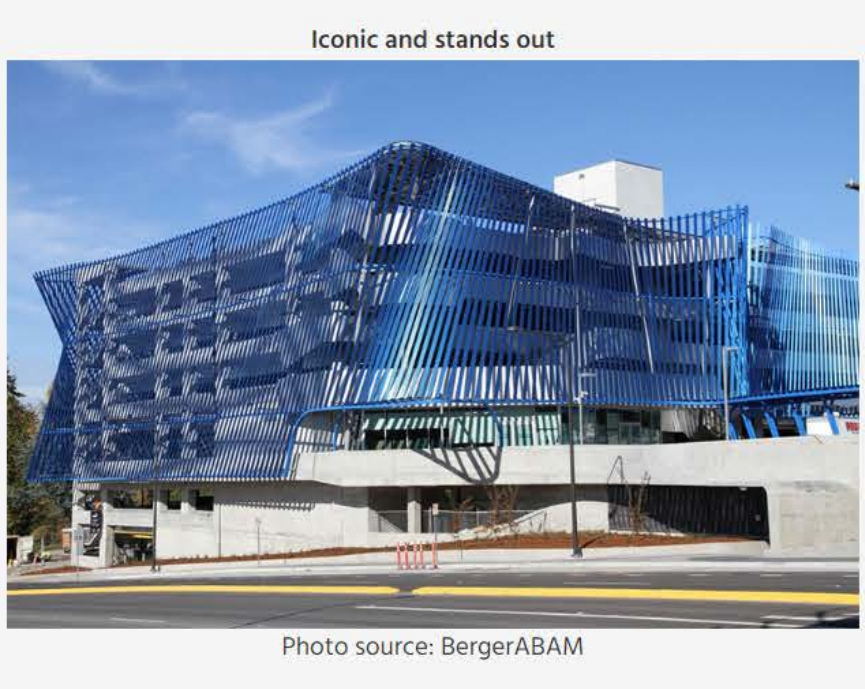

Photo source: BergerABAM

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Warm, subtle nighttime glow

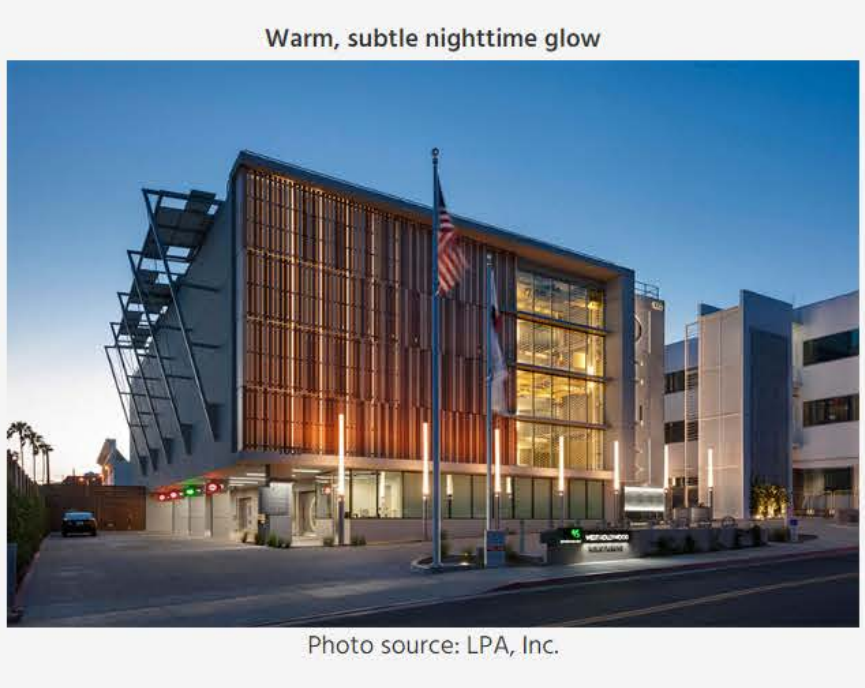

Photo source: LPA, Inc.

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Dramatic nighttime lighting

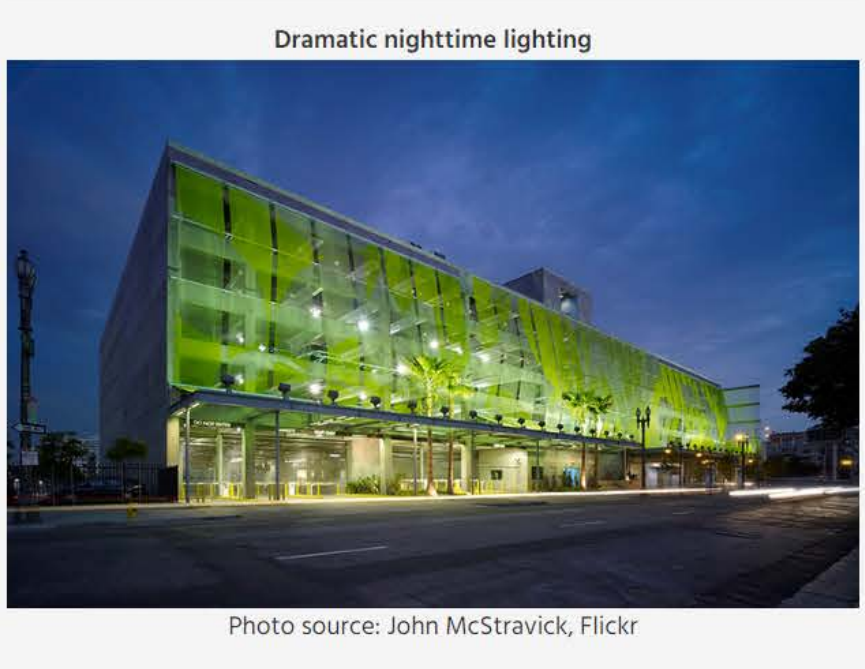

Photo source: John McStravick, Flickr

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Brick/masonry materials

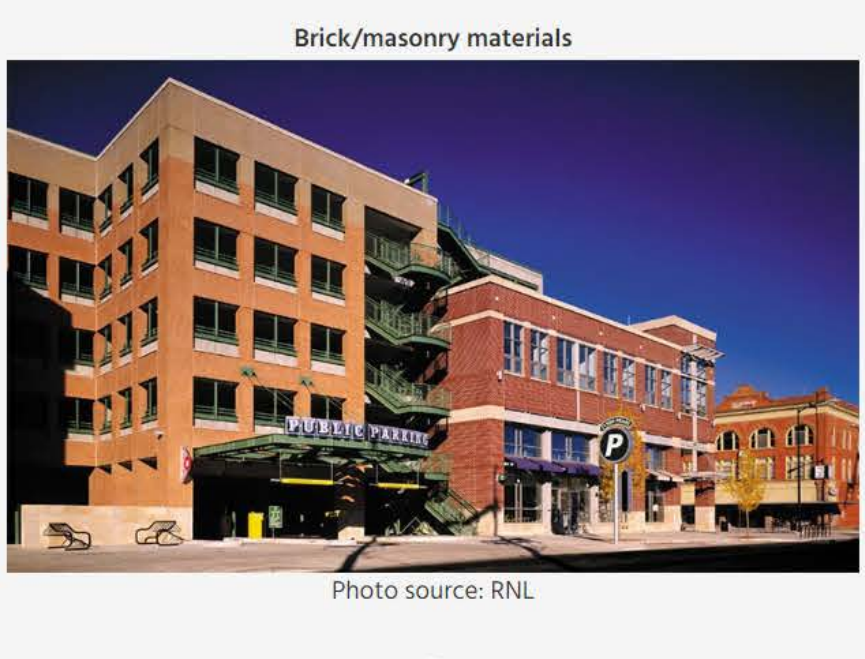

Photo source: RNL

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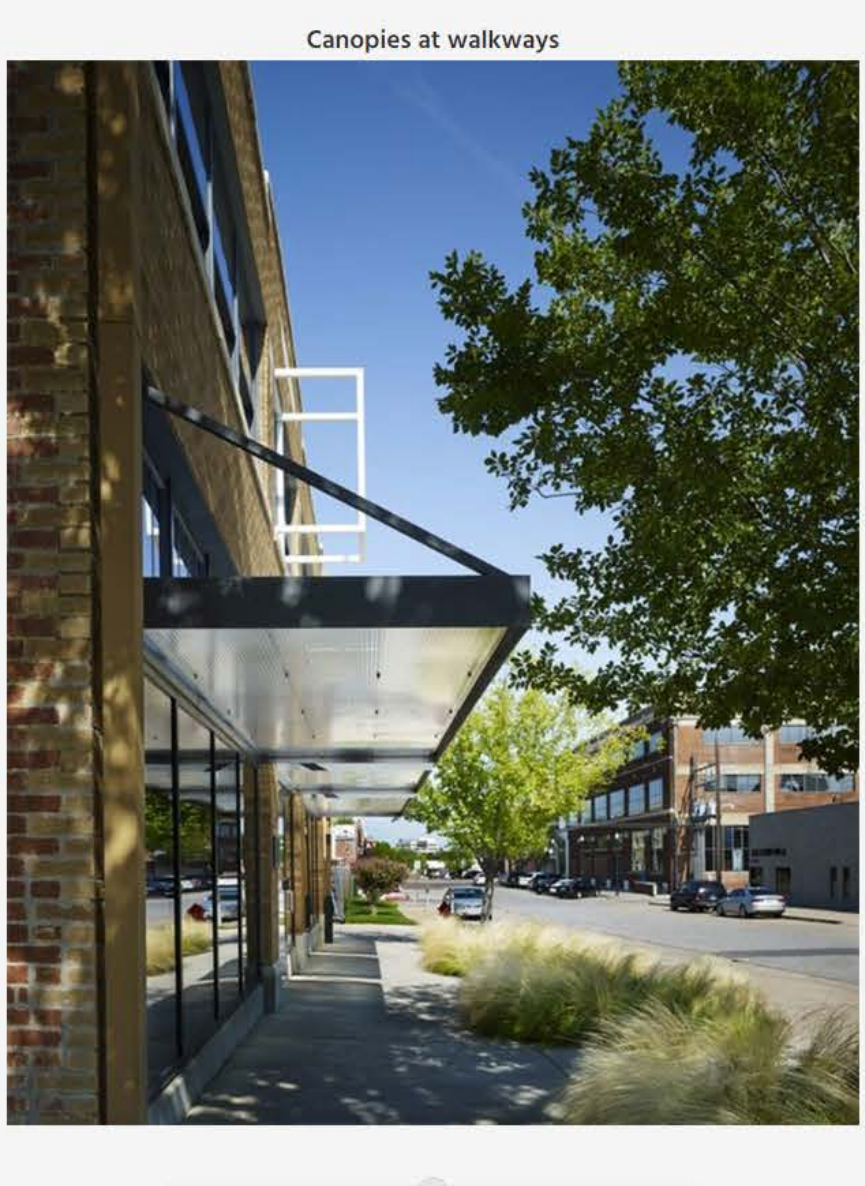
Canopies at walkways



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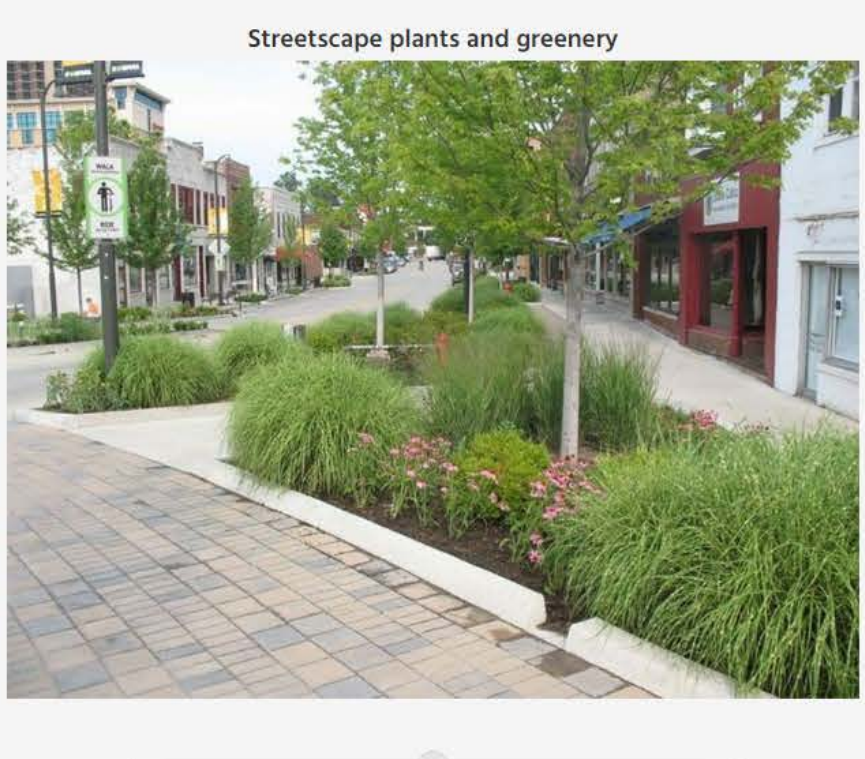
Streetscape plants and greenery



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Visually prominent stair tower/entrance

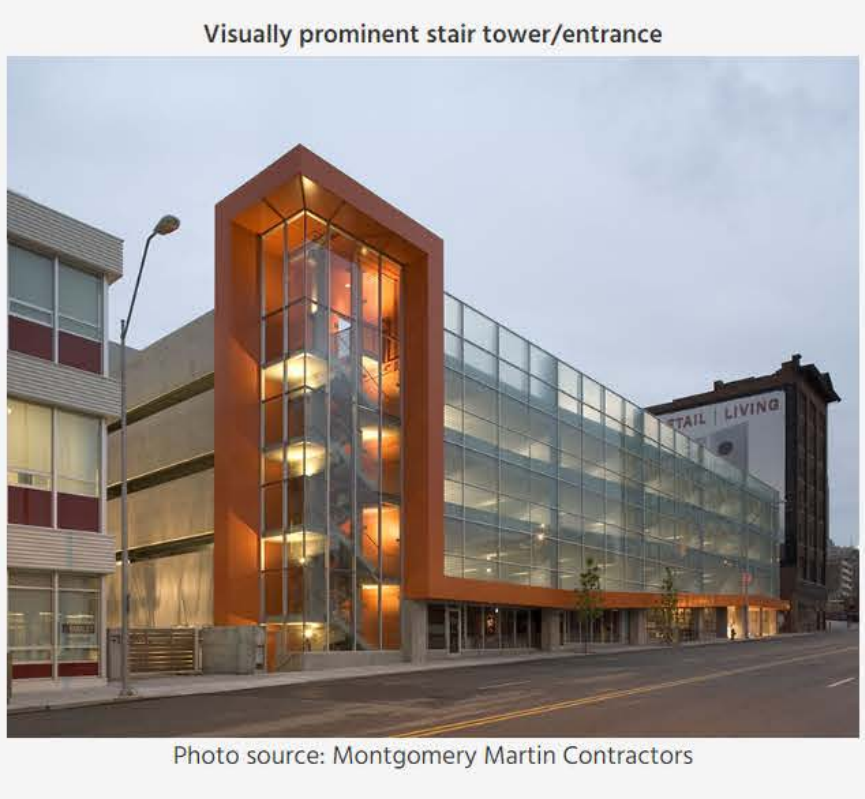

Photo source: Montgomery Martin Contractors

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Transparency and Light

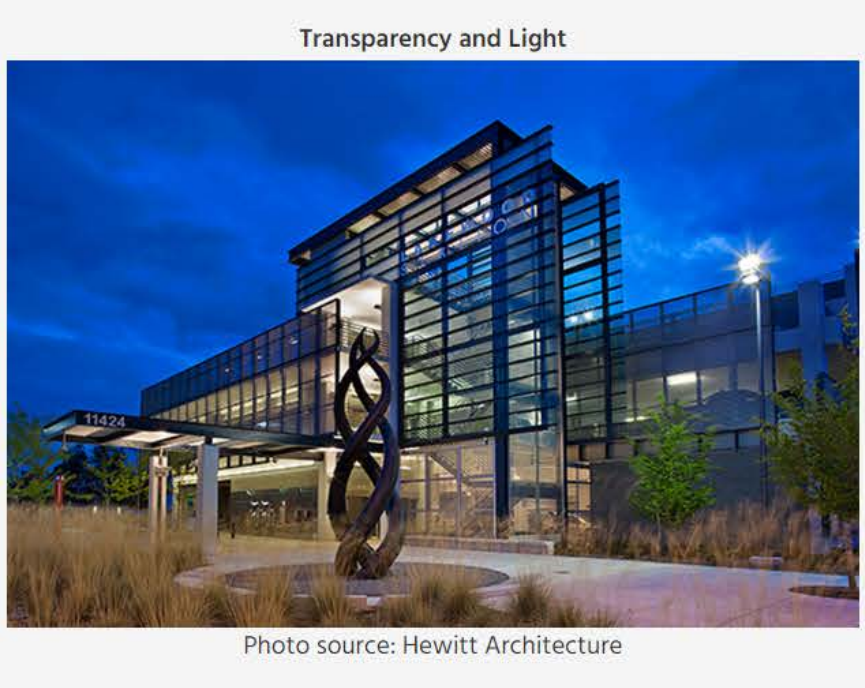

Photo source: Hewitt Architecture

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What else should Sound Transit consider for the design of the new Auburn Station parking garage?

Demographic Questions

These questions help us ensure we're reaching out to all affected parties equitably. These questions are optional and completely anonymous.

Would you be willing to answer some demographic questions?

● Yes
○ No

How did you learn about this survey/event?

☐ Postcard
☐ Poster
☐ Email from Sound Transit
☐ Facebook
☐ Online advertisement
☐ Printed advertisement in newspaper
☐ News article/blog
☐ Word of mouth
☐ Other:

What is your home zip code?

○ My ZIP code is:
○ Currently unsheltered/no home ZIP code
○ I don't know
○ I'd prefer not to say

What is your age?

○ < 19
○ 19-24
○ 25-34
○ 35-49
○ 50-64
○ 65 or more

What is your gender identity?

○ Male
○ Female
○ Non-binary
○ I prefer to self-describe:
○ I prefer not to say

Do you identify yourself as Hispanic, Latino/a/x, or Spanish origins?

○ Yes
○ No

Do you identify yourself as:

☐ American Indian or Alaskan Native
☐ Asian or Asian American
☐ Black or African American
☐ Middle Eastern or North African
☐ Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander
☐ White
☐ Other:

What languages are regularly spoken in your home?

☐ English
☐ Spanish
☐ Vietnamese
☐ Cantonese
☐ Mandarin
☐ Russian
☐ Somali
☐ Korean
☐ Tagalog
☐ Other:

If you speak a language other than English, how well do you speak English?

○ Very Well
○ Well
○ Less than well
○ Not at all
○ Not applicable - I only speak English

Do you consider yourself to have a disability?

● Yes
○ No, I don't consider myself to have a disability

Which accessible features of transit do you use?

☐ Lift/ramp
☐ Automated stop announcements
☐ Priority seating
☐ Wheelchair securement
☐ Assistance from the operator to board
☐ Bus lowering/kneeling feature
☐ Other:
☐ None

What is your household's total annual earnings?

○ Less than $10,000
○ $10,000 to $14,999
○ $15,000 to $19,999
○ $20,000 to $24,999
○ $25,000 to $34,999
○ $35,000 to $49,999
○ $50,000 to $74,999
○ $75,000 to $99,999
○ $100,000 to $149,999
○ $150,000 to $199,999
○ $200,000 or more
○ I prefer not to say

Submit

Learn more!

How to ride Sounder

Where you can travel on Sounder

The Sounder South line provides regular weekday service between Lakewood and King Street Station in downtown Seattle, with stops in Tacoma, Puyallup, Sumner, Auburn, Kent and Tukwila.

Sounder also runs special service on select weekends for some sporting events, conventions and celebrations. See upcoming Sounder event train schedule (click on Lumen Field or T-Mobile Park).

View the S Line schedule.

How to pay

Paying for your ride is easier than ever. Learn about all the different types of fares and passes, including an easy-to-use ORCA card. Adult Sounder fares range from $3.25 to $5.75 depending on how far you travel, with lower fares for seniors, persons with disabilities, youth and low-income riders.

You can purchase an ORCA card online, at station ticket machines or select local retailers. ORCA cards allow riders to load cash value or monthly passes, and ORCA provides transfer credit between buses and trains. You can also buy paper tickets or day passes at station ticket machines or on your smartphone via the Transit GO Ticket app.

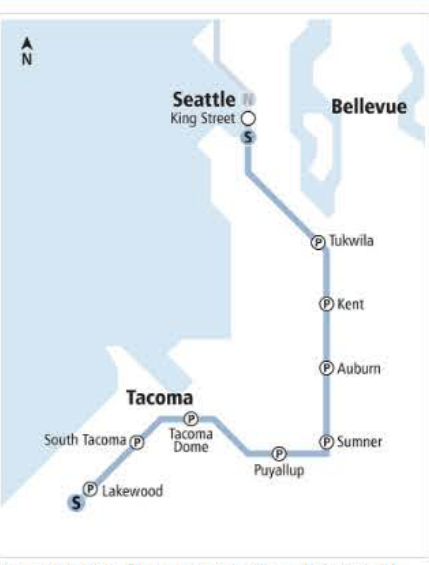
Seniors and people with disabilities

The Regional Reduced Fare Permit is available for everyone over the age of 65 and any person with a disability. Apply at any participating transit agency, including:

King County Metro Customer Service
201 South Jackson St.,
Seattle, WA 98104
(206) 553-3000

ORCA LIFT

Personal income should not be a barrier to using transit. Learn about ORCA LIFT, helping low-income riders save 50% on Community Transit, Sound Transit and King County Metro services.



Sounder line from Seattle to Lakewood | Click to enlarge

Increasing S-Line Capacity

To help meet growing demand on Sounder South, in 2016 voters approved the Sounder South Capacity Expansion program and an extension to DuPont. Improvements could include:

- Longer trains
- Additional weekday trips

Any additional service would require negotiation with BNSF, the railroad that owns most of the tracks used by Sounder.

In 2020 we created a strategic plan that identified program elements like:

- Platform extensions to accommodate longer trains
- Purchasing rail cars
- BNSF negotiations
- King Street Station platform improvements

Projects will be completed on a rolling basis. We expect platform extensions to be complete by 2036, and potential new trips added by 2046.

Link light rail coming to Federal Way

We're extending light rail from Angle Lake Station in the city of SeaTac to the Federal Way Transit Center. The 7.8-mile extension includes three stations: in the Kent/Des Moines area near Highline College, at South 272nd Street, and at the Federal Way Transit Center. All three stations add parking for a total of 3,200 spaces along the route. This project is under construction and scheduled to open in 2024.

Contact us:

Melanie Mayock
Phone: 206-689-4877
Email: melanie.mayock@soundtransit.org
Website: soundtransit.org/auburn-access-improvements

Need assistance?

General Rider Inquiries:
Phone: 1-888-889-6368, TTY Relay 711
Email: main@soundtransit.org
Monday - Friday, 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Accessibility Inquiries:
Phone: 1-800-201-4900, TTY Relay 711
Email: main@soundtransit.org
Monday - Friday, 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Call or text Security 24/7:
206-398-5268

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